



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

January 18, 2005

1. Bill Number and Sponsor:

Senate Bill (SB) 851, as passed the Senate
Senator Bruce Patterson et al.

2. Purpose:

This bill will extend the term and work responsibilities of the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council, expand the membership, and house it in the Department of Natural Resources. This work is a continuation of work already being done under Public Act 148 of 2003.

3. How This Legislation Impacts Current Programs in the Department:

This bill will complement current groundwater management programs in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), including groundwater inventory and mapping, water withdrawal conflict resolution, and the public water system supervision program.

4. Introduced at Agency Request:

No.

5. Agency Position:

Support.

6. Justification for the Department's Position:

This bill recognizes that the program that would be created by this legislation lays a foundation that needs to be built upon over time. It charges the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council with the responsibility to develop a science-based assessment tool to improve our decision-making over time as an appropriate next step.

A water withdrawal assessment tool will be an excellent management tool for evaluating the impacts of high quantity water withdrawals and protecting the environment.

The Departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources and Agriculture are afforded full voting membership on the Advisory Council.

7. State Revenue/Budgetary Implications:

The DEQ estimates the cost to develop the assessment tool required by this package to be approximately \$500,000 to \$1 million. The tie-barred SB 850 creates an annual revenue stream of approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000. Those funds will likely be necessary for on-going administration of the water management program established through this bill package.

8. Implications to Local Units of Government:

None.

9. Administrative Rules Implications:

None.

10. Other Pertinent Information:

This legislation is tie-barred to four related bills:

SB 850: Establishes a program for management of large quantity withdrawals.

SB 852: Changes the reporting requirements for water users.

SB 854: Creates a voluntary system for avoiding and addressing adverse resource impacts among water users within a watershed and establishes limited order authority for the Department to prevent adverse resource impacts.

SB 857: Applies the adverse resource impact standard to municipal water supply systems.



Steven E. Chester, Director
Department of Environmental Quality